CLAIMS

1. A startup method of a first routing device connecting plural networks on which a plurality of second routing devices including a parent router are connected, wherein

the parent router manages network identification data to identify the plural networks and is connected to one of the plural networks,

master router data is included for each corresponding second routing device, respectively, each master router data including master router identification data identifying whether the corresponding second routing device is a master router which is located on a path to the parent router or a slave router which is a routing device other than the master router, and network identification data identifying a network to which the corresponding second routing device connects, and

the method comprises, on startup,

acquiring the master router data from the second routing devices on the networks to which the first routing device connects, and

determining whether a router function of the first routing device is enabled based on the acquired master router data.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said determining comprises disabling the router function when all master router identification data in the acquired master router data indicate slave router.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining comprises disabling the router function when acquiring two or more master router data having master router identification data indicating master router.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining comprises starting up the first routing device with the router function enabled when acquiring one master router data having the master router identification data indicating master router.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein when a communication

device connected to the networks has identification data to identify a network to which the communication device connects, the method further comprises acquiring the identification data from a communication device connected to a network to which a second routing device that has the master router identification data indicating slave router connects, and starting up the first routing device with the router function enabled when there is at least one network to which the network identification data is not provided.

6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising acquiring data relating to the parent router from a second routing device that has the master router identification data which indicates master router, and requesting the parent router to register the first routing device.

7. A first routing device connecting plural networks on which a plurality of second routing devices, including a parent router, are connected, wherein

the parent router manages network identification data to identify the plural networks and is connected to one of the plural networks,

master router data is included for each corresponding second routing device, respectively, each master router data including master router identification data identifying whether the corresponding second routing device is a master router which is located on a path to the parent router or a slave router which is a routing device other than the master router, and network identification data identifying a network to which the corresponding second routing device connects,

said first routing device comprising:

a startup section operable to acquire , on startup, the master router data from the second routing devices on the networks to which the first routing device connects; and

a determining section to determine whether a router function of the first routing device is enabled based on the acquired master router data.

8. The first routing device according to claim 7, further comprising a

section to disable the router function when all master router identification data in the acquired master router data indicate the slave router.

9. The first routing device according to claim 7, further comprising a section to disable the router function when acquiring two or more master router data having master router identification data indicating master router.

10. The first routing device according to claim 7, wherein the startup section starts up with the router function enabled when acquiring one master router data having the master router identification data indicating master router.

11. The first routing device according to claim 10, wherein a communication device connected to the networks has identification data to identify a network to which the communication device connects, the first routing device comprising a section operable to acquire the identification data from a communication device connected to a network to which a second routing device that has master router identification data indicating slave router connects, and a section operable to start up the first routing device with the router function enabled when there is at least one network to which the network identification data is not provided.

12. The first routing device according to claim 11, further comprising a section operable to acquire data relating to the parent router from a second routing device having master router identification data which indicates master router, and a section operable to request the parent router to register the first routing device.

13. A computer program to enable a computer to control a routing device in the method according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

14. A data recording medium storing the computer program according to claim 13.